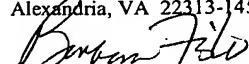


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Barbara Fisher

Date: March 20, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of:)

LIGTHELM, Dirk, Jacob)

Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP2003/050792)

US serial no. 10/534,179)

Int. Filing Date: 5 November 2003)

INHIBITING BREAKTHROUGH OF DRIVING)

FLUID VIA A PERMEABLE GEOLOGICAL)

LAYER INTO AN OIL PRODUCTION WELL)

Examiner: Angela M. Ditrani

Art Unit: 3676

March 20, 2007

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

The following amendment and response is responsive to an Office action mailed November 1, 2006 in the above-identified patent application. A replacement sheet for the drawing is also enclosed herewith. Reconsideration of this application in light of this amendment and these remarks is respectfully requested.

The Amendment follows on page 2. Amendments to the claims start on page 4, and Remarks follow on page 7.